

## **Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 2-21-07**

**Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:  
Tuesday March 6, 9:30-11:00am  
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

### **Items:**

- 1) Condo Conversion ordinance
- 2) West Bank School of Music
- 3) Meeting with University
- 4) Review of the Comprehensive Plan
- 5) "Lurking" ordinance
- 6) Antiwar Resolution
- 7) Community Benefits Agreements Study Session
- 8) Big Ten Conference
- 9) Transportation of Hazardous Materials
- 10) Maximum Occupancy
- 11) Wild Animals in Circuses
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Condo Conversion ordinance I sponsored failed on a 7-6 vote. I am disappointed that the Council missed our chance to gather better data on condo conversions, protect condo buyers and preserve affordable housing in Minneapolis. I hope that the extremely close vote in the Council has made the Realtor's Association more open to talking to affordable housing advocates than they have been in the past.
- 2) Please join me for a discussion at Saint Martin's Table on Saturday, March 10 at 10:00 Am. It's billed as a general conversation about current issues in city politics and my role as the only Green on the Council.
- 3) I am working to come up with a new agreement between the City and the West Bank School of Music, to allow them to purchase their building and stay on the West Bank.
- 4) My office is helping to organize a meeting with West Bank neighbors and the University to discuss the location of the proposed West Bank Central Corridor LRT station and the pedestrian safety lighting project.
- 5) There will be a public outreach and engagement process starting in late March on the upcoming review and rewrite of the City's Comprehensive Plan, *the Minneapolis Plan*. I will give you more details when I have them.
- 6) I am moving forward with an effort to repeal the Minneapolis "lurking" ordinance. Minneapolis is one of only four cities in the US with "lurking" ordinances. Approximately 90% of arrests for lurking end in dismissal of charges, and approximately 90% of those arrested are people of color. The ordinance is very often used on people experiencing homelessness. It is expensive to enforce and produces little to no constructive effects. I am currently working with the Council on Crime and Justice to build a broad community coalition to push for this unnecessary law to be repealed, and I invite you to join us.
  - 7) I co-authored a resolution calling for the immediate cessation of the war in Iraq with my colleague Ralph Remington. I'm proud that we got this passed without a single no vote (though several CMs declined to vote).
- 8) I coordinated and led a City Council Study Session on Community Benefits Agreements (CBA) with the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability on February second. We heard from outside experts, city staff

and from neighborhood group staff and activists about three case studies where CBAs and being developed. This helped improve my and my colleagues' understanding of this promising new tool to ensure that communities benefit from development projects.

- 9) I am planning to introduce subject matter soon to prevent shipping of certain hazardous materials such as chlorine and nuclear waste through the City of Minneapolis. Washington DC has passed a similar ordinance, and several other cities are looking into following suit. The purpose of these rerouting ordinances is to prevent mass casualty incidents, both resulting from accidents and from terrorist attacks.
- 10) I attended a conference in Chicago of Big 10 Universities on Community/ University Relations, with CM Hofstede and University staff. Reps from all the Big 10 schools discussed how to create better relationships with their surrounding neighborhoods throughout the five-hour meeting. Some interesting new ideas emerged, and I'll be floating them to City staff and the U over the next months.
- 11) I am planning to introduce subject matter soon to make Minneapolis' two contradictory maximum occupancy ordinances consistent, understandable and fair. The two ordinances are the Housing Maintenance code 244.810, which is primarily concerned with health and safety of tenants, and the Zoning code 546.50, which is primarily concerned with density.
- 12) I will be supporting an ordinance that my colleague Ralph Remington will introduce soon, prohibiting circuses from bringing wild animals such as elephants and tigers into Minneapolis. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect human and animal health and safety.
- 13) There are currently openings on the Housing Board of Appeals, the Latino Advisory Committee, the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. To apply, go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open> or call 673-3358.